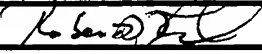



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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/645,136	
	Filing Date	August 20, 2003	
	First Named Inventor	Jeffrey Larson	
	Art Unit	3732	
	Examiner Name		
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	5	Attorney Docket Number	101045.0001US1

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Preliminary Amendment
Remarks _____		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Robert D. Fish; Rutan & Tucker	
Signature		
Date	12/15/03	

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

Inventor: **Larson, Jeffrey et al.**

Serial No: **10/645136**

Filed: **August 20, 2003**

For: **Guided Retractor and  
Methods of Use**

Examiner: **<not assigned>**

Art Unit: **<not assigned>**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop Preliminary Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2.

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 3.

**Remarks** begin on page 4.